



REDUCING CRIME

AND STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES

A CALL TO ACTION

A CRIME REDUCTION PLAN FROM MAYOR-PRESIDENT SHARON WESTON BROOME

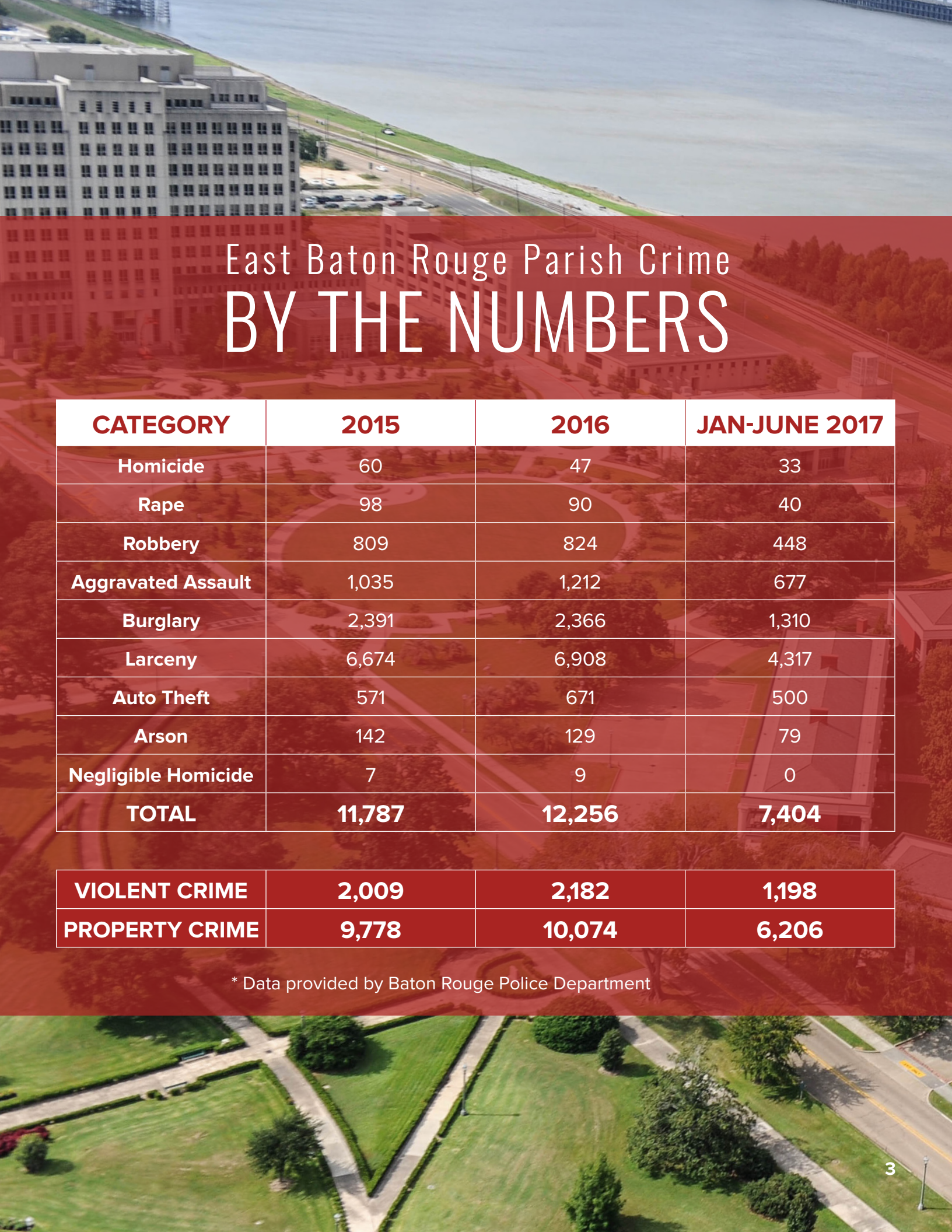
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INTRODUCTION



The Broome administration envisions a safer and more vibrant Baton Rouge and East Baton Rouge Parish characterized by community members, businesses and law enforcement working together to prevent crime through public education, civic engagement, community empowerment, employment readiness programs and opportunities for youth and vulnerable populations.

The administration seeks a form of collective leadership in which public agencies, the community, and faith based organizations collaborate around crime prevention and reduction based on shared goals and values. The recent “Call to Action” meetings allowed the administration to receive input and strategies toward a comprehensive action plan. Community input from these sessions and proposed solutions are included as an addendum to this document.



East Baton Rouge Parish Crime BY THE NUMBERS

CATEGORY	2015	2016	JAN-JUNE 2017
Homicide	60	47	33
Rape	98	90	40
Robbery	809	824	448
Aggravated Assault	1,035	1,212	677
Burglary	2,391	2,366	1,310
Larceny	6,674	6,908	4,317
Auto Theft	571	671	500
Arson	142	129	79
Negligible Homicide	7	9	0
TOTAL	11,787	12,256	7,404

VIOLENT CRIME	2,009	2,182	1,198
PROPERTY CRIME	9,778	10,074	6,206

* Data provided by Baton Rouge Police Department

APPROACH: ANSWERING THE CALL



LAW ENFORCEMENT

Increase Effective Policing

- Have a permanent Baton Rouge Police Department Chief in place no later than January 2018.
- Require the homicide review committee to analyze shootings to determine commonality, trends, connectivity and hotspots, and develop strategies to disrupt and to consistently broadcast “appropriate” information to the public to increase awareness that officials are taking action.
- Increase police presence and visibility in areas identified as hotspots.
- Increase BRPD manpower with the Peace Officer Standards and Training Council (POST) academy.
- Hold two regular academies in 2018, consisting of 35 officers in each academy, moving toward a full complement of officers before the end of the year.
- Systematically target resources to focus on those neighborhoods where a high number of homicides are taking place. The Baton Rouge Police Department is temporarily shifting manpower from some specialized divisions to increase manpower on our streets. Additionally, we have requested assistance from Louisiana State Police.
- Proactively patrol areas which have seen the most significant increase in violent crime until the full complement of officers can be reached by the end of 2018.
- Add an additional 25 crime cameras to the already existing cameras throughout the city.
- Purchase an additional 75 license plate reader cameras to place in high crime areas.
- Implement an incident monitoring center that would receive video from cameras placed on homes and businesses in high crime areas at no cost to the City-Parish.
- Increase allotment of officers funded in the budget from the present allotment of 698, to a total of 750 officers.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

and Empowerment

- Hold quarterly community “Call to Action” meetings scheduled for 2018.
- Promote the Baton Rouge ReBuilds Fellows program, an initiative of the Mayor’s Office that recruits talented young professionals to join the City-Parish’s effort to energize and strengthen communities through neighborhood organizing, community policing, civic engagement, leadership training, and youth programming. With the partnership of AmeriCorps VISTA, the Baton Rouge ReBuilds Fellows program is engaging eight AmeriCorps VISTA Fellows to help lead and coordinate the city’s effort to strengthen communities in underserved and disinvested areas.
- Continue to participate in the Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation (BCJI) grant program, which empowers the City-Parish to continue its work in implementing cross-sector community partnerships focused on the implementation of comprehensive, place-based strategies to address chronic and violent crime problems that persist in identified neighborhoods. This program is operated out of the Mayor’s Office.
- Promote awareness for the City of Baton Rouge Performance Partnership Pilot (P3) targeting disconnected youth ages 14 through 24 who are two or more years behind for their grade in the EBR School System. The two primary objectives of P3 are: to facilitate and strengthen cross-sector partnerships among provider agencies, industry/employers, elementary and secondary schools, postsecondary institutions, juvenile justice providers, and local government; and to create intensive and individualized pathways to success in education and careers for disconnected youth.
- Use sporting events (middle and high school as well as college level) as opportunities for community awareness and messaging. The BRPD Athletic League is currently conducting a pilot mentoring program which started in September 2017.
- Invite law enforcement to actively participate in community events and activities.

APPROACH: ANSWERING THE CALL



EMPLOYMENT READINESS and Education

- Utilize tools and resources from the Baton Rouge Education Advisory Committee, established in October 2017 under Mayor Broome's office. This committee – consisting of council members, educators, administrators, business and community leaders – is charged with promoting student achievement, advising and providing input to the Mayor-President.
- Elevate awareness around “Cradle to K” initiative, which aids parents with children under the age of 5.
- Address the “school to prison pipeline” stigma by continuing partnership with the East Baton Rouge School System and organizations promoting quality education.
- Continue educational investment in summer and out-of-school time youth programs and activities such as the Mayor's Office Summer Youth Program.
- Develop apprenticeship opportunities for individuals ages 16-24.
- Engage a more tactical approach to ensure that juvenile/adult offenders and others susceptible to crime know that GED prep and job opportunities are available through existing programs. EmployBR young adult services are available to youth and young adults ages 14-24, featuring a comprehensive array of services focusing on youth with one or more barriers to employment and post-secondary education or advanced training.



ADDITIONAL CITY-PARISH Initiatives

- Make community health priorities a part of an overall crime prevention strategy with the Mayor's Healthy City Initiative, including the 2018 Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA). Areas such as access to care, healthy living, injury prevention, mental health and substance abuse prevention measures are incorporated priorities into the 2018 CHNA.
- Continue expedited blight removal in areas associated with reported criminal activity. The Department of Public Works is securing additional assistance for blight remediation, with a focus on high-crime priority areas.
- Increase staffing in the City-Parish code enforcement division, which ensures compliance with city code and building codes. Develop policy solutions to cut grass on overgrown lots that reduce the present turnaround time.
- Repair and replace street lights throughout the parish, with assistance from Entergy.
- Continue to focus resources and efforts towards community redevelopment, working in partnership with private, public and non-profit agencies that are mission-driven to advance underserved and disinvested communities.

ADDENDUM: COMMUNITY FEEDBACK AND SOLUTIONS

In keeping her commitment to collaboratively strive to prevent and reduce violent crime in the Baton Rouge area, Mayor-President Sharon Weston Broome hosted four community “call to action” meetings on Oct. 10. The meetings, held simultaneously across the city, featured large and small group discussions about community engagement; time to plan action steps; and a community commitment pledge. Below is some of the main feedback:

	PROBLEM	Citizens who commit crimes, both youth and adults, may have mental health issues.
	SOLUTION	Provide better access to mental health information about support groups and nonprofits, etc.
	PROBLEM	People hear things in songs, videos and social media which trigger them to be like their favorite rapper or someone they look up to.
	SOLUTION	Ensure more exposure to mentorship, apprenticeship, or intern programs for all ages.
	PROBLEM	The most crime-ridden areas are 70805, 70820, 70807, 70806 and 70802 because of drugs and loitering at night.
	SOLUTION	Increase police patrols and enforcement of loitering laws. Also, encourage citizens to report these incidents anonymously to the police and Crime Stoppers.
	PROBLEM	Most crimes are gun violence, drug violence, or sexual assault.
	SOLUTION	Continue partnerships with BRPD and other law enforcement to stress that these issues will not be condoned and will be prosecuted accordingly. Work with organizations that effectively advocate non-violence and an end to sexual and domestic abuse.
	PROBLEM	Some crimes are supported by blight in the communities, parenting issues, high school dropout rates and no support.
	SOLUTION	Continue to fast-track City-Parish blight removal through volunteer involvement. Promote Employ BR and the Division of Human Services and Development better through social and traditional media, including PSAs, to showcase what services are available to the aforementioned populations.
	PROBLEM	Constituents would like to see more resources available, more grassroots organizations, better communication before problems occur in order to build better relationships with neighbors.
	SOLUTION	Make the BRgov.com website more user-friendly to include a “one stop shop” for all resources available, including those with the city as well as nonprofits “on the ground” with the community. Empower BR, Community Police Ambassador Programs, Boys & Girls Club, GED Programs and Employ BR are some of the suggested constituents as nonprofit organizations can be more effective in targeting different age groups. The City-Parish can also create/enhance printed collateral and door-to-door efforts.
	PROBLEM	Work on a database that would keep the community updated with resources that citizens can use and events they can attend.
	SOLUTION	See suggestion for “one stop shop” on the website.
	PROBLEM	Schedule job preparation for those who need help getting a job.
	SOLUTION	Make Employ BR and job fairs more visible, and work with other agencies and organizations to promote job opportunities.
	PROBLEM	The community needs more summer programs for young teens to help prevent them from being on the street and going down the wrong trail.
	SOLUTION	Continue route with summer youth program, season job fairs, business partnerships, etc.